GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HOME AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3404
ANSWERED ON:06.12.2016
National Conference of Head of Prisons
Raut Shri Vinayak Bhaurao

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Conference of Heads of Prisons of States and UTs on prison Reform was held recently, and if so, the issues discussed and resolution passed therein;

(b) whether the National Commission for Women (NCW) is ready to share best practices with the Bureau of Police Research and Development for bringing prison reforms, particularly in the context of women inmates and if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Union Government has requested the State Governments to adopt PM"s Skill Development programme to accelerate Prison Reforms;

(d) if so, the response of the State Governments thereon;

(e) whether there is slow progress in reducing the overcrowding of prisons; and

(f) if so, the steps taken by the Union Government to speed up the prison reforms?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS
(SHRI HANSRAJ GANGARAM AHIR)

(a): The Bureau of Police Research & Development (BPR&D) organized the 5th National Conference of Head of Prisons of States/UTs on Prison
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Reforms at New Delhi on 29-30 September 2016. The following four themes were selected for the conference:
a. Rehabilitation and Reintegration of Prisoners.
b. Technology for Prisons.
c. Best Practices in Prisons with Special Reference to Agriculture and Industry.
d. Security in Prisons.

After detailed deliberations, 11 resolutions were adopted. A statement containing the details of the Resolutions adopted is at Annex.

(b): National Commission for Women has informed that as per its mandate in terms of Section 10(k) of the NCW Act, 1990, the NCW inspects/undertakes visit to jails, remand homes, women's institutions or other custodial institutes where women are kept as prisoners. Thereafter, NCW shares its reports with recommendations with the concerned jail authorities including State Governments for remedial action, if found necessary.
(c) to (d): Ministry of Home Affairs has issued advisories to States Governments to accelerate skill development of prisoners.
(e) to (f): Prisons is a State subject under Entry 4 of List II of the Seventh Schedule to the Constitution of India. However, the Government of India
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has taken various administrative and legislative measures for reducing the number of undertrials in the prisons with a view to addressing the issue of overcrowding. Some of the measures taken are: (a) Establishment of Fast Track Courts (FTCs), (b) Creation of additional capacity of prisons through the Scheme of Modernisation of Prisons, (c) Launch of National Mission for Justice Delivery and Legal Reforms, (d) Insertion of a new section viz. 436A in the Criminal Procedure Code etc.

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